

The Christian Community

Movement for Religious Renewal

Hollywood Congregation

Rev Ben van Lieshout
3 Stewarts Place
Holywood, Co Down
BT18 9DX
90424254
07974960570
benvl@onetel.com

Newsletter for the week of Sunday, 13 June

This week we begin with an announcement about the Circle of Priests:

On Thursday, 3rd June, Vicke von Behr, Erzoberlenker of The Christian Community, passed the collar of the Erzoberlenker to João Torunsky (pictured below), who is now the Erzoberlenker. This took place during the international synod in Berlin. Most of the active priests from this Region had come together for four days of retreat, as planning a journey to Germany seemed too uncertain a prospect.

We were able to take this event into our thoughts before our service together on Thursday morning, which took place at the same time.

Such a moment gives us the opportunity of becoming aware that when the priest stands before us in the Act of Consecration of Man, we are seeing the visible manifestation of the Circle of Priests, which has its own holy ordering ('hierarchy').

Lenkers undertake to hold a Region in their consciousness; the Circle of Seven shares the awareness of all the Regions.

The Erzoberlenker is charged with bearing the whole Christian Community in his or her consciousness, which is embodied by the collar that they wear, which reaches all the way to their wrists.

Revd Tom Ravetz | National Coordinator (Lenker)

An interview with João Torunsky will appear in the next issue of Perspectives.



Hollywood

For Sunday services, please ring (02890424254), text (07974960570) or email (benvl@onetel.com) to book a place as we can only seat 12-14 people.

Wednesday 9 th June	The Act of Consecration of Man	10.00
Wednesday 16 th June	The Act of Consecration of Man	10.00

Glencraig

Thursday 10 th June	The Act of Consecration of Man	new time: 9.30
Thursday 17 th June	The Act of Consecration of Man	9.30

Mourne Grange

Sunday 13th June	The Act of Consecration of Man	10.15
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The gospel for Sunday 13 June is John 4:1-26



At this time, the Lord became aware that it was rumoured among the Pharisees that Jesus was finding and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus himself did not baptize, though his disciples did.) Therefore he left Judea and went back again to Galilee. Now he had to pass through Samaria.

So he came to a Samaritan town called Sychar, near the plot of land Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

Jacob's well was also there. Jesus was weary with the journey, and he sat down by the well. It was about midday, the sixth hour.

Then a Samaritan woman came to draw water. And Jesus said to her, "Give me to drink," for his disciples had gone into town to buy bread.

Then the Samaritan woman said to him, "How can *you*, a Jew, ask a drink of *me*, a Samaritan woman?"

For the Jews avoided all contact with the Samaritans.

Jesus answered her, "If you knew how the divine world now draws near to human beings, and who it is who says to you, 'Give me to drink,' you would ask him, and he would give you the living water.

"Sir," the woman said to him, "you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep.

From where will you draw the living water?

Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his flocks and herds?"

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks *this* water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water that I will give them, their thirst will be quenched for all time. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up as true life for eternity."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may never be thirsty again, and need never come *here* again to draw."

He said to her, "Go call your husband and show him to me."

"I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You have well said that you have no husband.

Five husbands you have had, and he whom you now have is not your husband. This you have said truly.

Jesus answered, "Believe me, O woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

You worship a being you do not know; we worship what we do know.

That is why salvation had to be prepared for among the Jews.

But the hour is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father with the power of the spirit and in awareness of the truth."

Then the woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming who is called Christ. When he comes, he will teach us all things."

Jesus said to her, "I AM he who stands before you and speaks to you."

A homily on John 4, 1-26



Human beings have always visited sacred places in order to honour the divine.

At first, they were simple stone memorials at a place where a great spiritual event or visitation had occurred.

Then gradually temples were built as gathering places for honouring the divine with story, song and ritual.

Christ meets the Samaritan woman at Jacob's 2,000-year-old well.

She asks him about places of worship.

Should humankind worship on a mountain top, or in a temple?

Christ answers that the sacred space will be within the human heart and mind.

"The hour will come, and it has come, when the true worshippers of God will worship the Father," He says, "with the power of the Spirit and in knowing awareness of the truth." John 4: 23

We can imagine that a kind of soul altar exists within each human heart.

And when a group of human beings come together to enact a ritual of offering, the walls of each heart expand.

They fill the room, so that hearts work among hearts, within hearts.

Together they form a greater heart, the common heart of the community. Hearts offer themselves in a common spirit, out of a communal truth.

And so we fulfil The Act of Consecration and realise God's presence in the sacred space of our heart.